REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 4, 2009. In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-12, 14, 17 and 21-29 were pending and were rejected. In view of the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10-12, 14, 17 and 21-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Crawshaw (US PAP 2001/0042032). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Crawshaw in view of Lesk (US Patent No. 7,249,073).

Aspects described in the present specification relate to a time and expense system including forms containing calls to a services applications program interface (API) to implement and sequence business rules. In one embodiment described beginning on page 11 of the present specification, a services API invokes transactions and/or queries a database. Forms are displayed to a user within a user interface. As described on page 13, lines 2–20, in one embodiment a form that is filled out and submitted by a user calls a services API that is invoked and processes data in the form (see also page 18, line 7- page 19, line 13). In one embodiment, a self-service web application is provided for capturing and processing data using forms having embedded calls to a services API for providing and processing business rules for interacting with a database (see page 18, line 16 – page 20, line 14).

The Office Action continues to allege that Crawshaw discloses a form having embedded calls to a services API. In particular, the Office Action cites paragraph [0012] of Crawshaw as disclosing a plurality of web part forms. Applicant respectfully disagrees. In Crawshaw, a user connects to a web site where a web page is displayed on a user's computer by a browser. Each selection or data input in the web page is provided to and processed by the disclosed web server. The data is then passed to the application server, which invokes or executes the software program. Crawshaw explicitly states that the special and general purpose software 60, 70 residing on the application server (see FIG. 1A and the associated description) individually or

collectively provides the functionality required by the user selection. The alleged web part form (i.e., the web page of Crawshaw) does not contain calls to a services API. More importantly, nowhere does Crawshaw even suggest that calls can be embedded within a form. Any invocation of a call to a services API disclosed in Crawshaw is with respect to the servers 30, 50 or 70 that receive the data from the form. In this manner, it is not a form that would invoke a call to a services API. In fact, the only mention of an API in Crawshaw occurs in paragraph [0017], which states that the server can include an API that specifies protocol, format, etc. for data packets imported into the server from other software applications. Crawshaw states that the API uses XML as a data protocol to communicate between the user and the API. Crawshaw specifically states that "users may access the API view of the web server and application server" (paragraph [0017]). Thus, not only does Crawshaw fail to teach or suggest a form having embedded calls, Crawshaw appears to teach away from a form that invokes business rules or embedded calls to a services API.

With respect to the language recited in independent claim 10, the cited Crawshaw reference at least does not teach or suggest a form that includes embedded server controls that comprise calls to a services API that are invoked by the form to define transactions. Crawshaw does not teach or suggest that a form automatically invokes the business rules to process user data contained in the form as claimed. Moreover, independent claim 10 has been amended to further distinguish the claim from the cited Crawshaw reference. In particular, amended claim 10, recites that the form automatically invokes the business rules to process the user data in the project accounting system and that the services API associates the user data to entities in the accounting system and returns values for display in the form based on the embedded server control embedded in the form. Crawshaw simply does not teach or suggest these features.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 10 is neither taught nor suggested by the cited reference and is in allowable form.

With respect to independent claim 17, Applicant respectfully submits that Crawshaw at least does not teach or suggest that a form has embedded calls that are automatically invoked by the form when the form is submitted, to invoke transactions with an accounting system to process

the user input. Moreover, Crawshaw also does not teach or suggest that an approval process is automatically initiated by a form using embedded calls in the form such that the services API processes the user data contained in the form based on the embedded calls using the business rules as claimed.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 17 is neither taught nor suggested by the cited reference and is in allowable form.

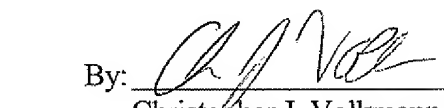
Further, Applicant submits that related dependent claims 11, 12, 14, 23-27 are also in allowable form at least based on their relation to independent claims 10 and 17, discussed above.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

MICROSOFT CORPORATION

By: 

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